Alabama Community Healthy Marriage Initiative Project

Problem Statement: Alabama has a history of high levels of marital and family instability. Because of this, Alabama's children face tremendous risks to their healthy development and well-being. Although awareness of the importance of and experience in marriage education has grown through demonstration project activities, there is great need to broaden the public awareness of the Healthy Marriage Initiative and to expand community efforts to implement effective marriage education programs.

Underlying assumption of project design: The implementation of a coordinated multi-level, multiple-activity Community Healthy Marriage Initiative saturation design will promote access to important healthy marriage resources for professionals and family members. A design that includes efforts to raise awareness of the importance of healthy stable marriages for child, family, and community well-being; efforts to promote access to healthy marriage resources; efforts to train community members and professionals in methods of best practices for marriage education and community coalition building; and efforts to support targeted community healthy marriage initiatives that provide programming for youth, nonmarried adults, and married adults will result in measurable positive impacts in individual, family, and community well-being among a high-need population.

Short-term Long-Term Yearly Inputs ----- Activities **Outputs Outcomes** Outcomes **ACHMI Partners Public Awareness Public Awareness** Improved HMI awareness and Viable and ·Media campaign **Activities completed** Auburn University access to needed resources Sustainable •HMI awareness presentation series to State Agency Media campaign implemented ·Human Development & and supports **CHMIs** and Partners (conferences/special meetings) State conference held Family Studies/Center for **ACHMI** network Marriage Week activities Briefings for Legislators Children, Youth, and Families Increased capacity for agency conducted ·Alabama Cooperative State Conference on Healthy Marriages personnel to articulate HMI Prof Dev series for State Extension System Marriage Week activities goals and refer to ME resources Partners staff held ·Alabama Marriage Handbook distribution and services Briefings for legislators Alabama Dept. of •ACHMI Web site expansion Open-access resources Child Abuse and National Stepfamily Resource Center Web site expansion developed and distributed **Neglect Prevention Healthy relationships** (Children's Trust Fund) **Training Conferences for Community** Training Conferences Expansion of CHMI Network and stable marriages held in curricula and and increased #s of Marriage and Faith-based Partners Network ·Greater marital "readiness" CHMI building Educators and program offerings In Implementation of programs Larger proportion of healthy Alabama Coalition ME programs offered communities 2-parent homes **Against Domestic Violence** Lower divorce rate Increased use of ME in MHC **Training & implementation** •MHC staff receive (drop out of the top 10) **State Organization** services: positive gains in assistance for MHC staff training and support and Agency Partners participants' knowledge & skills Implementation of programs ME programs offered Consortium Significant reductions Training and implementation FRCs increase # of Marriage of risks for children Educators and offerings of ME: Community and assistance for FRC Network FRC staff receive and adults and better reach increasing #s of youth and training and support Faith-Based Partners Field supervision rankings in child welladults thru intense CHMI Tracking project implementation process and impact Network being indicators for the saturation model State **Intensive ME Program Implementation** Short-term and sustained gains in Mental Health Centers Train trainers; implement marketing campaign; individual relationship knowledge offer "teaser" programs (MHC) and skills relevant to healthy Target populations Youth-focused relationship skills training marriages among participants; participate in ME •ME for non-married parents Improved relationship quality, **Family Resource Center** programs Marriage prep for couples forming stepfamilies parenting practices, adult well-being Network (FRC) and child well-being and CHMI Marriage Enrichment for married couples building (includes "boosters" in all areas) **Training Consortium**